

UNCLASSIFIED

6/6/80

BO 446

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: 6 June 1980

REPLY TO: POL/William H. Hallman
ATTN OF: *W*
SUBJECT: Events While You Were Away

memorandum

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release (X) Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): *NR*

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

TO: The Ambassador

NR

Human Rights - We learned earlier this week of the March 18 disappearance of a worker named Manuel Torrente in the town of Campana. This brings known disappearances in 1980 to three: Torrente, plus Ricardo Soria (disappeared March 17) and Angel Benitez (March 20). We learned too of (and reported on) an apparent "death while under custody" case: that of Francisco Miler, on May 22. Miler was abducted along with his brother by what appear to have been members of the Army, and his body found a few days later. The family can get no admission, no details.

As you were told they would, those "disappeared" members of the Partido Socialista de Trabajadores in Rosario surfaced on the day you left. The press reported that some PST people are in custody and lists others now considered in "fugitive" category.

More Jehovah's Witnesses were arrested here in Buenos Aires, but our information is that they were later released.

New prison rules were issued without publicity. We think they will help in the continuing process of correcting abuses.

Cheerful news was that several ERP members accused of murdering an Army major in 1975 have been legally arrested (we were told

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(REV. 7-79)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6



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2.

"picked up using right handed methods") and now, apparently, will be tried.

NR

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